



BALL 1-2-3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#14 D/BM
2-24-03

Inventor: Ball et al.

Serial No: 09/530,342

Filing Date: 04/27/00

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR DRAWING WAVEGUIDE
FIBERS

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: J. Hoffmann

REPLY

RECEIVED
FEB 14 2003
TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated August 30, 2002, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. A method for producing a waveguide fiber in a draw furnace including a graphite, generally tubular muffle having an inner surface comprising the steps of:

providing a high purity silicon carbide coating on the inner surface of the graphite muffle wherein the high purity silicon carbide coating contains less than about 900 parts per billion of impurities and the muffle comprises at least two separate, stacked generally tubular axial segments;

disposing waveguide fiber preform in the muffle;

heating the furnace to a temperature sufficient to draw fiber from the preform;

and drawing fiber from the preform